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September 1, 2015

August 31, 2015, was a big day for the Burleson Police Department as a new officer was sworn in and five were promoted.

The newest officer to join the fold is James McClure. The 31-year-old Joshua native served nine years with the Bedford Police Department. He is married and has three children. He will be in training for 12 weeks.

Those receiving a handshake and a new badge on Monday included Melvin McGuire and Randy Crum, as the department's new captains; and Don Adams, Tom Catron and Jae Berg as the newest sergeants. Also recognized were the police department's newest OICs (officers in charge), Cameron Pilgrim, Shelly Henken and Jonathan Gomez.

"I can't imagine anything more important for an organization than to promote people into leadership positions within the department and watch their talents flourish," Burleson Police Chief Billy Cordell said. "Each of these officers placed themselves in a position to be promoted through their actions and experience."

Sgt. Adams is a 13-year veteran of the department with three years prior law enforcement experience. He currently works patrol but has 11 years of experience in the narcotics task force.

Sgt. Catron is also a 13-year veteran of the department. He has experience in patrol, served as a detective for seven years, and most recently served as a community resource officer.

Sgt. Berg is an 8-year veteran of the department. He has experience in patrol and served for the last five years as the department's accreditation manager and public information officer.

Capt. Crum is a 22-year veteran of the department. He has served as a sergeant for 16 of those 22 years. He has patrol experience, a significant amount of experience in informational technology (including records management software), and experience with the department's budget. He has taken the lead on all IT-related components, such as communications, in what will be the

department's new facility. Crum is assigned to the support bureau, under the leadership of Deputy Chief Doug Sandifer.

Capt. McGuire is a 25-year veteran of the department and has been a supervisor for 13 years. He has patrol experience, served on the narcotics task force, and has a substantial amount of experience in criminal investigations, serving as the supervisor for criminal investigations for the past nine years. McGuire is assigned to the patrol bureau, under the leadership of Deputy Chief Chris Havens.

Pilgrim, Henken and Gomez will serve as shift supervisors when a sergeant is not on duty. Pilgrim has been with the department for just under eight years; Henken has served Burleson for six years (with two years prior service with Tarrant County College); and Gomez has been patrolling Burleson for five years, with one year's prior experience in Godley.

"When I gave city council our quarterly crime update on Aug. 3, I said by the time I returned we would have a new facility, two new captains, three new sergeants, three new OICs, and a new jail contract. That is a significant change for an organization our size," the chief said. "The only way you can make that significant of a change is to have the personnel who are capable of handling that much change. Burleson Police Department has the right people in place to transition this organization in to the future and I have confidence that each of these promotions represent opportunities to move this organization forward. Change is not possible without the support of our City leadership and the elected officials. I can't say enough about how much I appreciate their support of what we are doing."

Other organizational changes include Sgt. Wes Routson taking over the reins of the criminal investigations section and Sgt. Robert Sherman taking over the administrative sergeant role where he will oversee the school resource officers, internal affairs and the victim's assistance coordinator.